MUSEUM NEWS

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1952
NUMBER 133

MUSETTE AND VIOLIN — JEAN BAPTISTE OUDRY (1686-1755)

GIFT OF EDWARD DRUMMOND LIBBEY

THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART
FOUNDED BY EDWARD DRUMMOND LIBBEY

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS THROUGH THE AGES

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS have always exerted a fascination on people. They arouse curiosity, as one wonders how they are played and what sort of sound they make. To the musician they offer a visual account of the history of his art, and to the mechanically minded they tell a story of the development of craftsmanship and like techniques. But there is another more general appeal, for musical instruments tell even the most casual observer something of the social and artistic level of other times and cultures. The wonderful variety of their shapes alone holds tremendous appeal for the eye. One need only to look at the paintings of any age to see how interested creators of the visual arts have been in these beautifully made and decorated instruments.

In four galleries of the Museum one may see a comprehensive array of musical instruments from many parts of the world, and representing many centuries of development. With them are paintings and other art objects from the Museum's collection showing musical instruments in use as well as merely decorative motifs.

The Hurdy-Gurdy of the eighteenth century is accompanied by a tiny Meissen porcelain figure of the same period,—a monkey in female dress playing one of these instruments. Chinese pottery tomb figures show musicians playing the flute, balloon lute, and a pair of cymbals.

Among the paintings is the recently acquired still life by Jean Baptiste Oudry, reproduced on the cover. A type of French bagpipe called a Musette, is represented. In this instrument the drones are housed in a crown at the center, rather than in the usual long tubes as shown in a French eighteenth century bagpipe in the exhibition. The Musette became very popular in the eighteenth century, especially with the ladies, and was cultivated by the aristocracy. It is said even Madame Pompadour learned to play it. Perhaps this is the very one portrayed by Oudry, as he was for a time court painter and lived at the Louvre. The rich fabric of the bag, with its elaborate decoration of feathers, ribbon, ivory and gold pipes and crown, would designate its owner as someone of importance.

Oudry was noted for his decorative paintings and drawings, and was also a designer of tapestries. He preceded Boucher as director of the Beauvais tapestry factories. His interest in textures and ornament is well displayed in the canvas, Musette and Violin, painted in 1725.

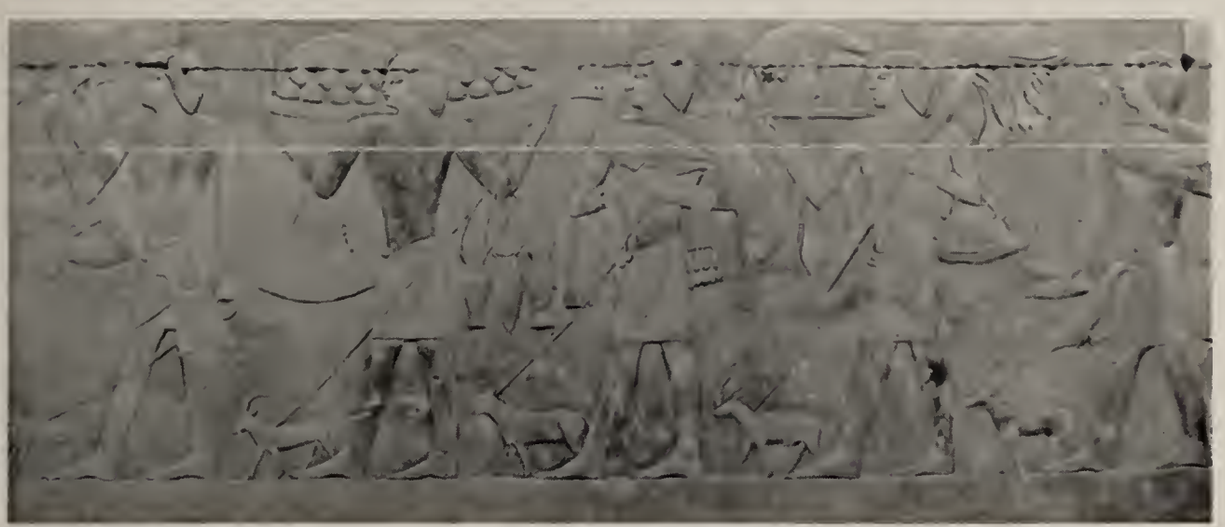
THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS Exhibition is open on Tuesday evenings, at which times programs of appropriate talks and music will be given. Club groups may arrange special tours and talks upon request. The Exhibition will continue throughout the month of March.

REPLICAS OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SCULPTURE

IMPORTANT NEW DISCOVERIES in Egyptian archaeology are shown in an exhibition of thirty-two paintings by Joseph Lindon Smith, from March 2 to March 23. These paintings are faithful reproductions of bas reliefs from tombs and temples along the Nile. Among them are sculptures from the inner walls of a shrine, recently excavated at Karnak on the site of ancient Thebes, dedicated to Queen Hatshepshut, dating from the fifteenth century B.C., and many interesting portraits and scenes of life in ancient Egypt.

Dr. Smith, who died in 1950 at the age of 87, spent the greater part of his life in this work. He completed fifty trips to Egypt alone and was engaged by the Egyptian government to teach his special technique to native students. This exhibition has been lent by Mrs. Smith and is being circulated by the American Federation of Arts.

The painting reproduced below was acquired for the Art Museum collections last summer as the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Spitzer, and has been on exhibition in the Egyptian gallery.



FIVE OFFERING BEARERS IN THE TOMB OF KAGEMNI SAKKARA, VI DYNASTY

THE HOPE COLLECTION

CONTEMPORARY PAINTINGS, Sculpture, and Prints from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Hope, Bloomington, Indiana, are being shown in Gallery 30 A, through March 9. Mr. Hope is Chairman of the Art Department, University of Indiana.

PAINTINGS BY LETHA SCHOENFELT, Toledo Artist

MRS. SCHOENFELT, painter and teacher, has exhibited frequently in the Toledo Artists shows. She is a member of the Society of Toledo Women Artists, the Art League, and the Toledo Artists Club. Her recent works will be shown in Gallery 8 from March 9 to April 6.

ADMISSION FREE AT ALL TIMES

HOURS: SUNDAY, MONDAYS, AND
HOLIDAYS, 1-5 P.M.
OTHER DAYS, 9 A.M.-5 P.M.

Miss Elin Johnson
Oberlin College
Oberlin, Ohio DIR950

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TOLEDO 2, OHIO

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MUSEUM NOTES

ENTRIES FOR THE ANNUAL TOLEDO Area Artists Exhibition will be received at the Museum on March 6, 7, and 8. All must be brought to the Superintendent's Office between 9 A.M. and 6 P.M. on *these dates only*. The prospectus and entry cards are available at the Museum upon request.

THE VIRTUOSI DI ROMA, called one of the greatest ensembles of our time, will play in the Great Gallery of the Museum Monday evening, March 17, at 8 o'clock. This amazing little orchestra of fourteen players with conductor, while most famous for their interpretations of eighteenth century music, offer programs of wide variety. Tickets are on sale at the Museum Concert Office.

NUMBERS 117 AND 118 of the Museum News are needed by the Museum Library. Copies of these which you may no longer care to keep will be gratefully received.